

*Our mandate covers the entire range of women's health issues and includes all aspects of human health and disease as they affect women. Our interest is to promote health care responses which are appropriate to women's needs.*

Our areas of activity include, for example:

Reproductive health

- fertility/infertility
- reproductive technology
- midwifery
- low-risk birthing units
- abortion

Social health

- wife assault
- sexual assault

Mental health

- mood-altering drugs
- stress

Women's Health Centres

Occupational health

- safety in the workplace

General health

- breast cancer
- cancer of the reproductive system
- heart disease
- and many diseases and health problems
- research

Our purpose is to promote improved health for women in a climate of co-operation, both in government and in the community.

*For further information, call or write us at:*

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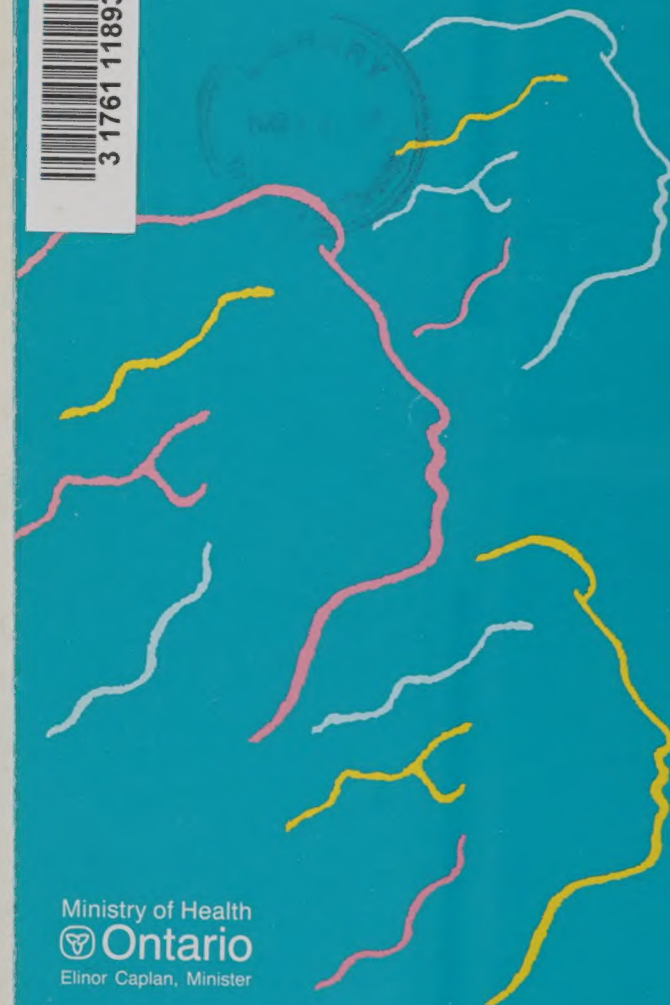
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*An advocate in government  
for women's health issues*



Ministry of Health  
**Ontario**  
Elinor Caplan, Minister

*Our goal is to make the health care system more aware of and sensitive to women's health needs, so that women will have greater opportunity in making choices and exercising control over their own health.*

*We are the voice of women's groups to the Ministry of Health's program managers. We provide access to government program people and act as advocates for community concerns about women's health issues.*

Our mandate includes:

- acting as primary contact point for women's organizations wishing to raise issues, seek information or have access to ministry staff and programs
- promoting high priority women's health issues raised by concerned organizations
- addressing local and professional groups on women's health issues and discussing how to promote their interests
- encouraging organizations to make known their concerns to the ministry or other government agency
- consulting with them on the ministry's program initiatives.

*Women have specific and unique needs throughout their lives. These particular needs arise from biological, psychological and social factors. For example:*

- 64% of women with young children are now in the paid workforce, yet still retain primary responsibility for care of children and the elderly.
- One in every 8 to 10 women in Canada is a battered woman, and one in four women has experienced some form of sexual assault.
- Women are major consumers of health services, accounting for 25% more health services than men due to these biological, psychological and social factors.

*Within the ministry and government, we are the focal point for all matters related to women's health. Our approach is a co-operative one. We bring relevant program areas together to work towards a co-ordinated, integrated solution to women's health issues. Our interest is to help make the ministry's programs as effective and as far-reaching as possible.*

Our mandate includes:

- promoting sensitivity to women's health issues in all policy and planning
- advising senior management on all aspects of women's health
- reviewing existing and proposed programs to ensure that women's concerns and special needs are addressed
- co-ordinating the ministry's approach to ensure that programs to address issues will be fully integrated in the health care system
- ensuring the ministry is involved in government initiatives which address women's health concerns
- taking the lead in co-ordinating the approach to a new issue for which there is no clear lead program area
- identifying gaps in women's health care and recommending programs to cover them
- supplying information on women's health care issues
- bringing to government deliberations an understanding of how the health care system responds to women, and how women respond to the health care system
- identifying gaps in research on women's health and recommending areas of study.